

Levee System, helping earn three Abilene Trophies for building a strong and vibrant community surrounding Scott Air Force Base, catalyzing economic growth through a regional development plan, and leading numerous important infrastructure projects including major river bridge improvements in the last decade.

Please join me in congratulating the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois on its 40th anniversary and wishing the council continued success in strengthening our communities for years to come.

RECOGNIZING CPL. HELEN M.
LATTAL

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of the late Corporal Helen M. Lattal, a proud World War II veteran who passed away in March at the age of 103.

Helen enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in 1942. In 1943, President Roosevelt transformed the WAAC into the Women's Army Corps, giving women full military status. She served in the headquarters of the 8th Air Force of the Army Air Corps under the command of Gen. Jimmy Doolittle.

After the war, she returned to the United States and worked as a counselor for soldiers. In her later years, she would serve as a volunteer with the Red Cross. She was a 57-year member of the American Legion where she served a term as post commander.

Cpl. Lattal's life's work is an example of the patriotism, sacrifice, and commitment we associate with the military. We are grateful for her dedication to this country, and we will miss her.

HONORING COUNCILMAN JIM
BULLARD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commemorate the life of former Piscataway Councilman Jim Bullard. Councilman Bullard passed away on February 15, 2023, after a life filled with numerous personal and professional accomplishments.

Throughout his life, Councilman Bullard exhibited hard work and an interest in learning. The son of James and Eileen Bullard, Councilman Bullard was born and raised in the Bahamas. He graduated high school at the age of 12 and worked various jobs where he consistently demonstrated character and leadership before moving to the United States to continue his education. He received his associates degree from Miami-Dade Community College and his bachelor's degree from Lowell Technological Institute (UMass Lowell). He worked as an electrical engineer for RCA, Honeywell, and AT&T Bell Labs. He remained at AT&T for 29 years until his retirement in 2006.

Elected to represent Ward 2 on the Piscataway Township Council in 2010, Councilman Bullard served three terms, until De-

cember 2022, and led the Council as President in 2013. Throughout his tenure, Councilman Bullard promoted senior services, recreational programs for children, and improvements to parks.

A long-time advocate for seniors, Councilman Bullard served on the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission and the Office of Aging & Disabled Services Advisory Council and helped start the Senior Buddy Program which partners high school seniors with senior citizens to improve computer skills.

In addition to his work with the senior population, Councilman Bullard volunteered his time with the Piscataway Little League, Piscataway Community Television, the Metlar-Bodine House Museum, and the Piscataway Recreation Board, among others. He was deservedly recognized for his efforts by various organizations, including the Jersey Access Group, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, and the Middle Atlantic Regional Babe Ruth Baseball Hall of Fame.

Councilman Bullard received a heart transplant in 2006. As he did throughout his life, Councilman Bullard approached transplant surgery with determination and a positive attitude, recovering quickly and devoting time to supporting organ donation programs and patients. He helped raise funds for organ donation for Hahnemann University and served as President of the Second Chance Heart Transplant Chapter and Support Group.

Councilman Bullard leaves behind a loving family, including his beloved wife of 45 years, Lois, their children, grandchildren, and his siblings. His generous spirit was a joy to everyone he met, and he will be remembered fondly by all those whose lives he impacted.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman Bullard was a dedicated public servant and an active member of the community. He was deeply committed to serving the residents of Piscataway and his leadership and enthusiasm will truly be missed. I know I join with his family, friends, colleagues, and community in paying tribute to his memory.

PROVIDING APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION AND TREATMENT
NEEDED TO ENHANCE RELATIONS WITH ASEAN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for passage of the PARTNER with ASEAN Act, bipartisan legislation I introduced with Congresswoman YOUNG KIM of California to strengthen the longstanding relationship between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

For nearly six decades, ASEAN has worked to promote stability, prosperity, and multilateral cooperation in Southeast Asia and has become a critical part of the diplomatic architecture of the broader Indo-Pacific. Together, the ten member nations of ASEAN represent the world's fourth-largest market, and U.S. trade with ASEAN accounts for hundreds of billions of dollars a year. Last fall, the U.S. and ASEAN agreed to elevate their relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

In 2017, I co-founded the Congressional ASEAN Caucus with Congresswoman ANN WAGNER to foster greater dialogue on Capitol Hill around issues related to Southeast Asia. Today's consideration of the PARTNER with ASEAN Act comes from years of bipartisan work by our Caucus, and I also want to recognize the contributions of the bill's original cosponsor Representative Steve Chabot, who was a leader on Asia policy issues in Congress for many years.

The United States was the first non-member country to appoint an ambassador to ASEAN, and Congress has long recognized the regional and global importance of ASEAN. Despite the bipartisan consensus about the importance of ASEAN centrality, the United States has yet to accord ASEAN the routine diplomatic privileges that we provide to similar groupings like the Organization of American States, African Union, or European Union.

The PARTNER with ASEAN Act would authorize ASEAN to be designated as an international organization with full diplomatic privileges and open new avenues for U.S.-ASEAN cooperation, including the potential establishment of an ASEAN mission in the United States. It has bipartisan support in the Senate, where a companion bill was introduced earlier this month, and President Biden has committed to signing the bill into law once it reaches his desk.

At a time of increased global focus on the Indo-Pacific, the PARTNER with ASEAN Act makes a simple change that will have an outsized impact on our international relations. I thank Congresswoman KIM for her partnership on this bill, and I also want to recognize the work of Erik Ashida, who served on my staff until last month and played an instrumental role in moving this legislation forward.

I urge my colleagues to support the swift and bipartisan passage of the PARTNER with ASEAN Act and applaud the longstanding commitment of this body to maintaining strong relationships with our partners in the Indo-Pacific.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF DAVID FULSTONE

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my Happy Birthday wishes to Mr. David Fulstone, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on Saturday, April 1, 2023.

David Hill Fulstone was born on April 1, 1923, in San Francisco, California as the second of five children to the late Fred and Dr. Mary Fulstone. Raised in Nevada's Smith Valley on the family sheep ranching operation, the values of hard work and service were instilled in David at an early age. Throughout his youth, he worked as a ranch hand, and especially loved sheep camp.

He was also the star of the Smith Valley Bulldogs basketball team, before graduating in 1942. After high school, David pursued his passion and bought his own farm, growing hay, garlic, and onions.

In 1945, David married his best girl and forever dance partner, Angelina Margaroli. They were faithfully married for 63 years until